

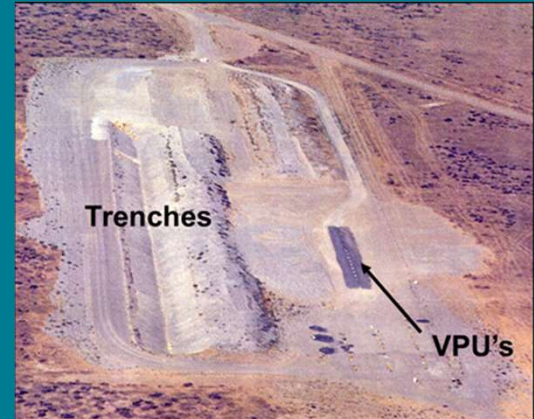
The 618-11 Burial Ground (2012)

The 618-11 Burial Ground is located approximately 7 miles northwest of the Hanford Site's 300 Area. It is directly adjacent to Energy Northwest's (ENW) Columbia Generating Station, an operating commercial nuclear power plant. The site received low- to high-activity radioactive waste from the 300 Area laboratories and fuels development facilities from March 1962 until December 1967.

The four-acre burial site is approximately 375 feet by 1,000 feet and contains three backfilled trenches (50 feet by 900 feet), 50 vertical pipe units (VPU) and four caisson units. The VPUs and caissons contain remotely handled waste. The site contains mostly low-level radioactive waste, but it is possible that other wastes may be discovered during remediation. The site is currently in a minimum surveillance mode, with annual inspections being performed to ensure there is no vegetation on the burial ground and radiological postings are intact.

Several radiological events occurred during disposal operations, resulting in surface contamination of the adjacent land. The contaminated soils were remediated by contractor Washington Closure Hanford in the 2015 River Corridor Closure Project and there are no longer any radiological postings outside the burial ground.

In 1999, groundwater monitoring identified a highly concentrated tritium plume originating from the 618-11 Burial Ground. The tritium levels were orders of magnitude above the drinking water standard, but have decreased significantly over time, indicating there was a one-time release from a waste form in the burial ground. The tritium is not expected to reach the Columbia River at a concentration above drinking water standards.

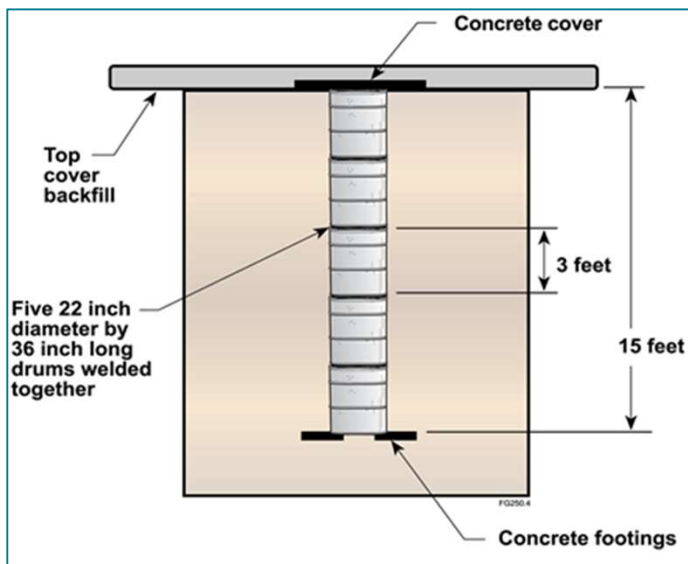


The burial ground during operations, 1964.

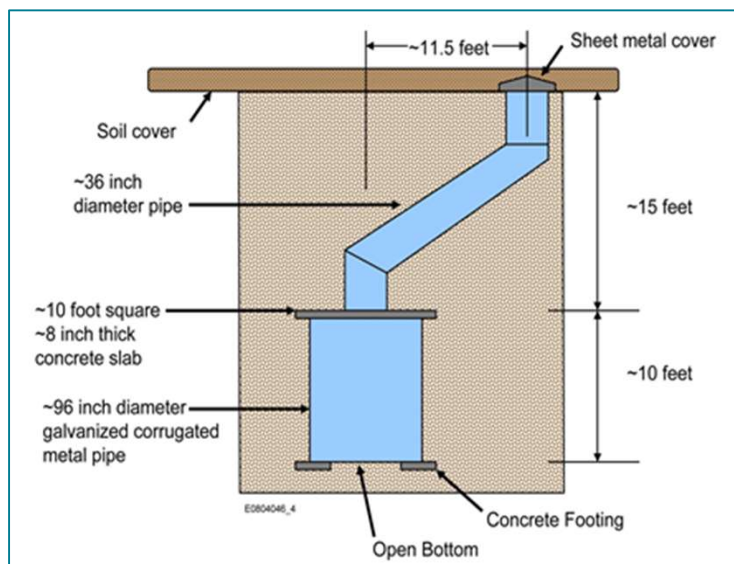


618-11 Burial Ground Historical Summary (cont.)

Remediation of the 618-10 Burial Ground, the sister site of 618-11, was performed from 2010 through 2017 by Washington Closure Hanford. The U.S. Department of Energy's approach was to remediate the 618-10 Burial Ground and then apply lessons learned to the work at 618-11; however, due to budget constraints and ENW's concerns, the project was stopped. Remediation of 618-11 will commence in 2030. The cost estimate to remediate 618-11 is approximately \$300 million.



Typical vertical pipe unit used for disposal of remote-handled waste.



Caissons for disposal of remote-handled waste.



Typical disposal of remote-handled waste in caissons and vertical pipe units.

